

FRUITS OF TREES.—We have received for review a 50-page pamphlet from a specialist on trees who, perhaps, is not familiar with the standards expected by those who write reviews for RHODORA; for its use or failure correctly to use commas, hyphens and other simple marks of punctuation indicate that it is not Latin alone which is too much ignored in American education. The pamphlet is "Fruit Key to Northeastern Trees By William M. Harlow, PH.D. Associate Professor of Wood Technology New York State College of Forestry Syracuse, New York".¹ The very attractive illustrations are taken from an earlier volume by the author and, made from photographs, are gratifyingly accurate ("the camera tells the truth"). The text is intended for students of forestry, who seem to be assumed to need very elementary instruction, so that nontechnical words are strained after and even very simple ones defined. Throughout the pamphlet the rigid exclusion of leaves and other very conspicuous organs and the use of fruits alone lead to the separation of obviously different trees by less evident characters. For instance, Tulip-tree or "Yellowpoplar *Liriodendron*" is easily distinguished by habit, foliage and flower from "Balsam Fir *Abies*" but here, through the permutations of the Key they come side-by-side and can be told apart only by their fruit. Again, the genera *Tsuga* and *Picea* (both evergreen, so that the characteristic foliage is present with the cones) are strikingly different: *Tsuga* with the blunt and strongly flattened leaves submembranaceous, and with a slender petiole, scattered and turned into a flat spray; *Picea* with somewhat pungent, 4-angled firm leaves spirally arranged and not forming a flat spray, jointed at base to the prominent and persistent pulvini. Nevertheless, here is the only separation given for these very definite genera (p. 22):

"19. Cones purplish at maturity [with footnote explaining that "They lose this color during the winter", a correct statement, for they then become brown], scales with evident ragged edges—Black Spruce *Picea mariana*

19. Cones brownish at maturity, scale edges smooth or very slightly ragged", this section containing two other species of *Picea* and the one of *Tsuga*, separated by their cones only.

Standardized Plant Names has evidently been the standard for "common" names. Whether even that presumptuous model had so many inconsistencies I have not attempted to check. Here we find (p. 18) "Eastern Redcedar or Redcedar Juniper *Juniperus virginiana*", followed by "Southern or Atlantic whitecedar *Chamaecyparis thyoides*"; on p. 22 and 23 "Black Spruce" followed by "white spruce"; on p. 25 "Red Maple" and "Norway maple"; on p. 26 the almost unequalled "Treeofheaven or Chinese-sumac"; on p. 28 "American elm", "Cork or Rock Elm" and "Slippery elm"; and on p. 29 "Papermulberry", "Red Mulberry" and "white Mulberry".

These items are sufficient to indicate that, either foresters are relatively naïve and not too critical (and if traits of accuracy or inaccuracy carry over into different fields their work should be carefully watched), or that the author would have done well to hand his manuscript to a pupil in the grammar-school (if any of them are now taught the simple rudiments of grammar and rhetoric) for editing before it went to the printer.—M. L. F.

¹Published by the author, 234 Kensington Pl., Syracuse, N. Y.; single copies 50c; 10 or more copies less 20%.